

are pending. In view of the amendments set out above and the following remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The following comments address the points raised by the Examiner in the order they are presented in the Official Action.

Concerning the 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph rejection of Claims 104-107

Claims 104-107 have been canceled as directed above, so this rejection is now deemed moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Concerning the 35 U.S.C. 102(a) rejection

Claims 1,2, 5, 6, 8, 11-13, 16,17, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 62, 63, 66, 67, 69, 74, 75, 78, 79, 80, 82, 84, 88, 90-91, 93, 94, 97-99, 101, 103, 104, 107-109, 114-117, 122, 123, 126-128, 130, 136, and 138 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by "de la Fuente, et al.

Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn because the inventor is one of the authors of the cited reference, the present application was filed under the PCT less than one year from the date of publication (filing date, 5/29/98; publication date 6/6/97), and the attached affidavits by the non-inventor authors aver that the inventor is the sole inventor. Accordingly, the de la Fuente, et al reference is not citable as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(a).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(a) rejection of the enumerated claims, except claims 104, 106, and 107 which have been canceled.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections

The Official Action rejected claims 3, 4, 7, 9-10, 14-15, 18, 20-21, 24-25, 28, 30-61, 64-65, 68, 70-73, 77, 81, 83, 85-87, 89, 95-96, 98, 100, 102, 105, , 110-113, 118-121, 124-125, 129, 131, 133-135, and 137 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over various combinations of references. Each of the rejections cites de la Fuente, et al as the primary reference. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

For the reasons noted above, de la Fuente, et al is not available as a proper reference against Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, each of the section 103 rejections fails to provide a prima facie basis for rejection of the enumerated claims. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that this application is now ready for allowance. Early notice to this effect is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4650. A duplicate copy of this form is enclosed.

If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 202-331-8777 (a local call).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Bundren", written over a horizontal line.

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